

more remote from said bridge element, said elongated member forming a passageway extending from the first end thereof toward the second end, [one of said associated strings] said one string being arranged to extend through said passageway and to be secured to said means for raising and adjusting one of said strings at a point spaced from the first end of said elongated member, wherein said elongated member is pivotally displaceable between a first limiting position and a second limiting position and the first end of said elongated member is in spaced relation from the bridge element in and between said first and second limiting positions.

3. (Amended) The fulcrum tremolo [Tuning apparatus as] set forth in claim 2, comprising an elongated displacement means located in said means for raising and adjusting [one of said strings] for contacting said elongated member and pivotally displacing said elongated member between said first and second limiting means.

4. (Amended) The fulcrum tremolo [Tuning apparatus as] set forth in claim 3 [2], wherein said elongated member has a surface extending in the direction between the first and second ends thereof, and said elongated member displacement means comprises an elongated [bolt-like] threaded member [adjustably mounted in separate means and arranged] operable to contact said surface to pivot [for pivoting] said elongated [lever] member between the first and second limiting positions.

5. (Amended) The fulcrum tremolo [Tuning apparatus as] set forth in claim 1, wherein said means for varying the spacing between said first and second critical points comprises a member for securing [each of] said means for raising and adjusting [one of said strings] to said base plate for positioning said means for raising and adjusting [one of said sting] relative to said first critical point.

6. A fulcrum tremolo [and tuning device] for use on a stringed musical instrument comprising a body, a neck extending from said body, and an end on said neck spaced apart from said body, a plurality of strings secured at said end and on a tailpiece on said body, each of said strings has a first critical point on said neck and a second critical point on said body, said tailpiece and said second critical points being pivotal together about an axis, said device

comprises a bridge-tailpiece assembly pivotally mounted on said body for simultaneously changing the pitch of all strings, said assembly including means for individually moving the second critical point of each of said strings for changing the distance between the first and second critical points and changing the harmonic tuning thereof, and means for macro-tuning each said string individually by varying the tension without changing the distance between the first and second critical points, said means for macro-tuning being pivotal about said axis [movable with said tremolo means].

Please add claims 7-12 as follows:

7. A fulcrum tremolo for a stringed musical instrument having a head engaging the first end of the strings, the tremolo comprising:
 - a base plate pivotable about a pivot axis;
 - a string anchor engaging the second end of one of the strings;
 - a bridge element connected to the base plate, pivotable about the pivot axis, engaging the one string intermediate the string anchor and the head;
 - a macrotuner connected to the base plate rearward of the bridge so that the macrotuner is pivotable about the pivot axis, the macrotuner being operable to adjust the string from an untensioned pitch to a proper playing pitch, the macrotuner comprising:
 - an elongated arm extending rearwardly adjacent the bridge element; and
 - a gripping portion intermediate the bridge and the string anchor for gripping the string.
8. The tremolo of claim 7 wherein the tremolo comprises a ball bearing and the base plate is pivotable about the base plate.
9. A fulcrum tremolo for a stringed musical instrument having a head engaging the first end of the strings, the tremolo comprising:
 - a base plate pivotable about a pivot axis;
 - a string anchor engaging the second end of one of the strings;

a bridge element connected to the base plate, pivotable about the pivot axis, engaging the one string intermediate the string anchor and the head;
a macrotuner rearward of the bridge, operable to adjust the string from an untensioned pitch to a proper playing pitch, the macrotuner comprising:
a gripping portion intermediate the bridge and the string anchor for gripping the string.

10. The tremolo of claim 9 wherein the macrotuner is connected to the base plate so that the macrotuner is pivotable about the pivot axis.
11. The tremolo of claim 9 wherein the macrotuner comprises an elongated arm extending rearwardly adjacent the bridge element.
12. The tremolo of claim 9 wherein the tremolo comprises a ball bearing and the base plate is pivotable about the base plate.

REMARKS

In the Official Action dated June 3, 1998, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. In light of the claim amendments set forth above, Applicant believes that the claims are clearly defined as required by §112. Therefore, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1-6 under §112. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Gressett, Jr. et al 4,768,415. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection in light of the following.

Gressett discloses a tremolo for tuning a guitar. The tremolo includes means for fine tuning each individual string of the guitar. Col. 4, lines 63-64. Means are provided so that fine tuning the strings does not disturb the substantially flat and uniform condition of the upper portion of the tremolo. Col. 4, lines 64-67. In this way, regardless of the fine tuning, the entire upper portion of the tremolo may serve as a seat or rest for the hand or forearm of the guitarist. Col. 4, line 67-Col. 5, line 2.

In contrast to the Gressett device, Applicant's invention, as claimed, is directed toward macrotuners, not fine tuners. As set forth in Applicant's specification, fine tuners are limited to a range of at the most three pitches. Page 43, lines 8-11. However, Applicant's